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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,071	08/20/2003	Yoshihiro Sasaki	040373-0338	4342
22428	7590	09/22/2004	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER				LE, JOHN H
SUITE 500				
3000 K STREET NW				
WASHINGTON, DC 20007				2863
ART UNIT				
PAPER NUMBER				

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/644,071	SASAKI ET AL.
	Examiner John H Le	Art Unit 2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,17,25,33 and 41 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-16,18-24,26-32,34-40 and 42-48 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 17, 25, 33, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bahns et al. (USP 6,020,747) in view of Yoshida (USP 6,137,295).

Regarding claims 1, 17, 25, 33, and 41, Bahns et al. disclose a computer program, data processing, and probe testing apparatus for testing an end shape of a contact probe (14, 16) brought into pressure contact with a contact pad (32a, 32b, 32c, 32d) on an integrated circuit (28) (Col.6, lines 34-41), said apparatus comprising: means for detecting a surface shape (surface test) of at least one of said contact pad and said contact probe as three-dimensional data (X-Y-Z measurements)(Col.6, line 62-Col.7, line 25).

Bahns et al. fail to teach means for analyzing the surface shape through imaging; and means for determining from the result of the analysis whether said contact probe is acceptable or defective.

Yoshida discloses means for analyzing the surface shape through imaging; and means for determining from the result of the analysis whether said contact probe is defective (Col.3, lines 14-23, Col.9, lines 15-39, Fig.11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include means for analyzing the surface shape through imaging; and means for determining from the result of the analysis whether said contact probe is defective as taught by Yoshida in a computer program, data processing, and probe testing apparatus of Bahns et al. for the purpose of providing a method for detecting a defect of an integrated circuit.

Other Prior Art

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Hsiung et al. (USP 6,590,409) disclose systems and method for package defect detection.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-16, 18-24, 26-32, 34-40, and 42-48 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John H Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2275. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John H. Le

Patent Examiner-Group 2863

September 16, 2004



John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800